

The Renzi Report

VOL. 3 ISSUE 8

OCTOBER 2005

Your Direct Link to the News and Events from Our Nation's Capital and Rural Arizona

Dear Fellow Arizonan:

This month, we celebrate Veterans' Day, and honor the 25 million Americans who have served in our Armed Forces.

America has always been a nation devoted to the cause of liberty both at home and abroad. And through their bravery, our nation's heroes have advanced freedom's cause and allowed us to live free and be secure. Veterans' Day is an opportunity to honor our veterans for their love of country and the sacrifices that our service members and their families undertake in order to keep America free.

In our nation's capital, I am fighting to ensure that America keeps its promise to our nation's veterans. We can never fully repay them for their sacrifices to our country, but we can honor and remember their brave service by defending America's liberties and freedom. In addition to pushing for more veterans' funding, this year I am also calling on Congress to specifically recognize the service of our Native American veterans by establishing November 7, 2005 as Native American Veterans' Day.

As always, feel free to tell your family members, friends and neighbors about the Renzi Report. You can sign up to receive this email and find additional information about developments in Congress at my website. Just click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/renzi>.

If you have any questions or comments about this e-newsletter or anything else, please e-mail me at rick.renzi@mail.house.gov and I will get back to you as quickly as possible. I hope you find this Renzi Report informative. Thank you and may God Bless America.



Congressman Rick Renzi

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, please send an email to rick.renzi1@mail.house.gov and type UNSUBSCRIBE.



Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) joined President Bush and other members of Congress this week as the President signed S. 397, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act into law. Congressman Renzi co-sponsored the House version of the bill, H.R. 800.

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Congressman Renzi's Veterans Day Schedule:

Friday – November 11, 2005 – SAFFORD, ARIZONA

10am – 11am – Safford Veterans' Day Parade
Safford Main Street

11am – 11:30am – Safford Veterans' Day Program
Safford VFW Hall

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Arizona Veterans' Legislative Update

Renzi Fighting for America's Veterans

I have been proud to fight for America's veterans since coming to Congress by co-sponsoring several important pieces of legislation. The **Stolen Valor Act of 2005** introduced in the House of Representatives in July 2005, would expand federal law to allow for prosecution of individuals who falsely claim to have received decorations or medals authorized by Congress for distribution by the Armed Forces.

This legislation which also would levy fines or up to six months of imprisonment for individuals who knowingly wear, manufacture, or sell fraudulent decorations or medals, such as the Purple Heart. Our veterans who have earned such honors deserve our deep appreciation and respect. Their deeds should not be allowed to be lessened by others. The House Judiciary Committee is currently reviewing this legislation and I am hopeful that the full House will consider this legislation in the near future.

HR 303 Concurrent Receipt

One of the first measures I supported as a member of Congress was legislation to ensure that the concurrent payment of veterans' disability compensation and retirement pay to eligible individuals will occur.

As a nation, we have an obligation to compensate those who devoted their lives to military service and sustained injury or illness as a result. As a vocal advocate for increased veteran and military retiree benefits, I share the frustration of those who have long fought for the restoration of their earned retired pay.

We were able to craft a proposal that provides for a 10-year phase-in of full concurrent receipt for those with a 50 percent disability rating and higher. Although I would have preferred to do more, I am pleased that we were able to broker a proposal that had the support of the Congress and the White House.



Congressman Rick Renzi receives an award from the American Legion, as an "Unsung Hero for America's Veterans."

VETERANS FAST FACT:

Earlier this year, the VA announced a more than **\$1 billion shortfall** for the 2005 enacted budget for veterans' health program. Congress responded to this shortfall by approving **\$1.5 billion in supplemental appropriations** for veterans' medical services to cover the 2005 shortfall, as well as additional assistance for 2006.

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Arizona Native American Update

House Passes Renzi Provision to Boost Affordable Housing for Native Americans

The House of Representatives passed a provision by Congressman Renzi last week to ensure that Native Americans are eligible to participate in a new affordable housing fund established by HR 1461, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2005. The legislation establishes an affordable housing fund that, over the next five years, will provide billions of dollars to increase investment in housing. The end result will be that thousands of Americans, including Native Americans living on tribal lands, will be able to own and afford their own homes.

"While the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina and the need for housing in the Gulf Coast region has become a national priority that I fully support, there is no group in this country that needs affordable, quality housing more than Native Americans," said Congressman Renzi. "There is an urgent need for quality, affordable housing on tribal lands, and this program has the potential to do a lot of good."

Congressman Renzi's provision to the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act will specifically ensure that Native Americans in rural Arizona, and across the nation, will be eligible to qualify and receive funding from the new affordable housing assistance program established under this legislation.

"It is my hope that the affordable housing fund established in this bill will help remedy some of the serious housing issues facing tribes by allowing them to get the funding they need to build homes and improve lives," said Congressman Renzi.

Renzi Announces New \$1.8 Million Federal Grant for Navajo Nation Special Education Services

Congressman Renzi announced a new federal grant for the Navajo Nation worth more than \$1.8 million dollars from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant will improve employment opportunities and create new job opportunities for those living with disabilities on the Navajo Nation by concentrating on programs that help transition individuals from school to work.

"This wonderful program is unique in that it incorporates the Navajo culture to provide assistance to those living with disabilities on the Navajo Nation," said Congressman Renzi. "These funds will not only go a long way in addressing the needs to promote and provide employment for those living with disabilities, they will help do so in a culturally sensitive environment. This will allow the program to do the most good for the community."

The unique program involves adopting a service model that is based on the teachings of the Navajo people. The program includes the importance of circular thought and uses the four Cardinal Directions, which are an important part of the Navajo culture, east - thinking, south - planning, west - implementing and north-resilience. This unique approach to outreach for those with disabilities will greatly encourage and enhance the effectiveness of these programs for the Dine people. Additionally, all project staff are Navajo and will possess the knowledge and language skills to make a real difference by their interaction with individuals, groups and organizations within the Navajo culture.

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Rural Arizona Legislative Update

Bush Signs Bill Co-Sponsored by Congressman Renzi To Protect 2nd Amendment Rights



Congressman Rick Renzi (AZ-1) joined President George W. Bush and other members of Congress this week as the President signed S. 397, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act into law. Congressman Renzi co-sponsored the House version of the bill, H.R. 800.

"This measure will go a long way in protecting America's Second Amendment rights," said Congressman Renzi. "The legislation is a necessary response to anti-gun activists, who seek to bypass the Congress and enact their legislative agenda through the courts. We must stand vigilant so that our gun rights are not eroded."

The bill specifically would protect the makers and sellers of firearms and ammunition from lawsuits that blame them for the criminal or unlawful acts of others.

House Resources Committee Passes Winslow Land Bill

Congressman Renzi announced that the House Resources Committee passed HR 1436 which removes land restrictions on property located in Winslow. The bill will specifically allow the City of Winslow to better utilize property it obtained through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The City has been restricted to using the land only for public recreation purposes. The bill passed by the Committee will lift those restrictions allowing the property to be used to better serve the needs of the community. The measure will now be considered by the full House of Representatives.

"This legislation will provide a vital economic boost to the City of Winslow," said Congressman Renzi. The bill's passage is an important first step in helping Winslow meet the needs of a growing community."

In 1979, the City of Winslow obtained 123 acres of land to develop into the Hospitality Golf Park. Despite the city's best efforts to increase the recreational benefit for the community, the project has been unsuccessful and has become an economic drain on the city's budget. This legislation will allow this property located in Winslow's prime commercial area to be developed and will provide an economic boost to the area.

FAST FACTS:

The budget deficit shrank last year from **\$412 billion to \$319 billion**. This is **nearly a 25% decrease**.

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In Case You Missed It...

Ethnicity tops rivalry for night

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/1023polinsider23.html>

Program offers school, Job help for disabled

<http://un-equaed.com/NTBLOG/?p=326>

Golf course bill passes house Sub-committee

<http://www.winslowaznews.com/main.asp?SectionID=3&SubSectionID=3&ArticleID=2928&TM=39854.55>

Leaders pore over thorny border challenges

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/1020forum.html>

County grants administrator attends Senate Hispanic Leadership Summit

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15382850&BRD=1817&PAG=461&dept_id=222076&rft=6

House OKs bill banning gas price gouging, easing new refinery restrictions

<http://phoenix.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2005/10/03/daily61.html>

Federal proposal would allow local cops to arrest illegals

<http://phoenix.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2005/10/03/daily49.html>

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